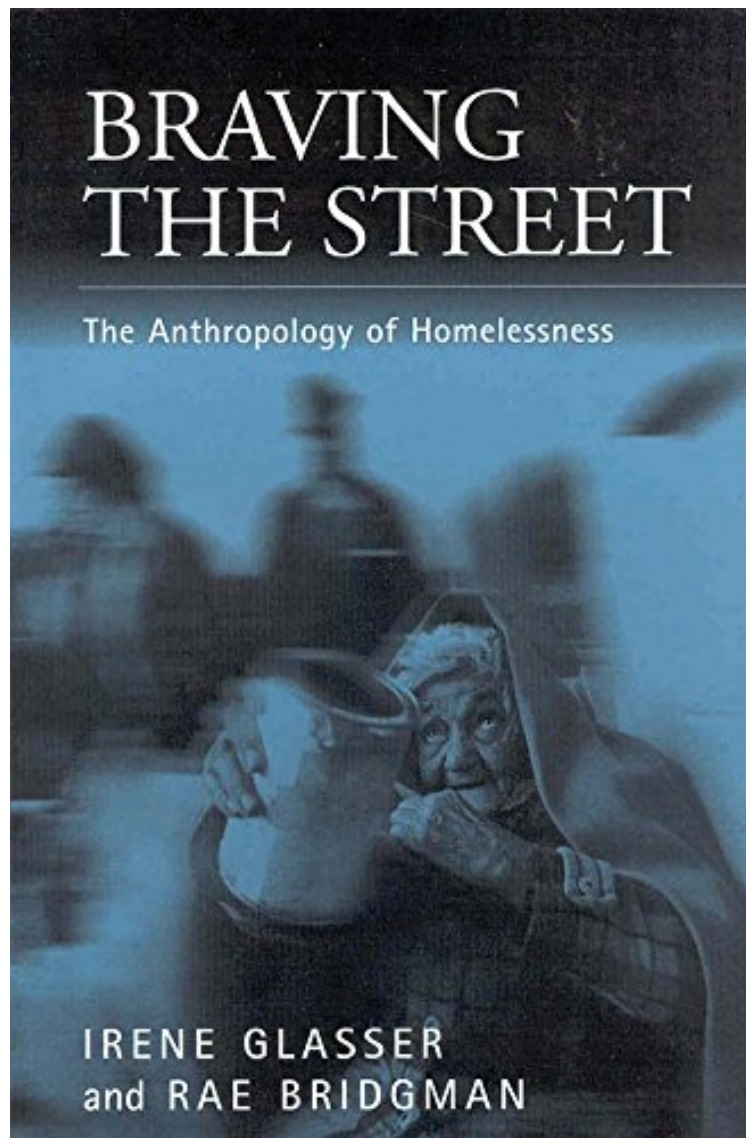


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## Braving the Street: The Anthropology of Homelessness (Public Issues in Anthropological Perspective)

*Irene Glasser, Rae Bridgman*

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The problem of homelessness is a systemic one. It has not been adequately addressed by public officials or by social scientists. This excellent commentary by two anthropological experts on homelessness shows the complexity of the problem as revealed in on-the-scene fieldwork. Glasser and Bridgman show homelessness as it really is, and point to solid directions for its solution as a social problem.

As homelessness continues to plague North America and also becomes more widespread in Europe, anthropologists turn their attention to solving the puzzle of why people in some of the most advanced technological societies in the world are found huddled in a subway tunnel, squatting in a vacant building, living in a shelter, or camping out in an abandoned field or on a beach. Anthropologists have a long tradition of working in poverty subcultures and have been able to contribute answers to some of the puzzles of homelessness through their ability to enter the culture of the homeless without some of the preconceptions of other disciplines. The authors, anthropologists from the U.S.A. and Canada, offer us an analysis of homelessness that is grounded in anthropological research in North America and throughout the world. Both have in-depth experience through working in communities of the homeless and present us with the results of their own work and with that of their colleagues.

"This slim, useful book ... is suitable for students ... The fairly tight North American focus allows for great accuracy and detail, and the Canadian material is especially interesting, because Canadian social policy is less well known than that of the United States, and seems far more progressive on homelessness." The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute "[The authors] present key themes from the available literature in a way that affords policy makers and other practitioners access to what it is that anthropology has to offer in thinking about and responding to homelessness on a day-to-day, ground level. In this endeavor, [the book] is supremely successful." American Anthropologist  
About the Author  
Irene Glasser has widely published on homelessness and has been Professor of Anthropology at Eastern Connecticut State University, specializing in urban, applied, and medical anthropology. Since 1994 she has also been Director of Canadian Studies. Rae Bridgman is Research Associate at the Department of Social Anthropology of York University, Canada.